



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

OFFICE PROCEDURES—Paul Williamson, M.D. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 412 pages, \$12.50.

Keeping up with Paul Williamson is like trying to swat a horsefly on a hot summer day. He is everywhere. He does everything. And he has the knack of doing things well. This work is no exception.

There was a real place for *Office Procedures*. Thank goodness, Paul, in his wisdom, did not append to the title the apologetic "for the general practitioner."

I know of at least a dozen books purporting to accomplish what this one succeeded in doing. One of them I unearthed in a second-hand book store. It was entitled *Profitable Secrets of the Specialists*. I purchased it for fifteen cents, studied it with great delight, then presented it, sentimentally inscribed, to a dear orthoped friend. Deeply touched by my parry, his riposte, he stated, would be a bound edition of the collected papers of General Hawley.

This work of Williamson's I will not give to anyone. It has front row center on my bookshelf and will be there perennially.

This book rolls up its sleeves and goes to work. Like its author, there is no beating around the bush with philosophic reflection. This is the frontal approach needed in how-to-do-it volumes. Countless of the procedures essential to the solution of everyday problems are described in very clear, direct language. Again and again through the volume you will read, "do it like this." Follows a paragraph or two, illustrated by a line diagram. That's all there is. No vacillation or vague speculation on the merits of alternate methods. "Do it like this" conveys to me that this eminently practical therapeutic virtuoso has considered in his own practice all the methods and has arrived at the best one.

He does not circumvent the sanctuaries of the specialties when he feels that any physician with a knack can accomplish a procedure. There are many instances in which he describes a maneuver using simple objects like paper clips and hair pins. Not, as he says, to avoid the use of proper instruments, but to show that uncomplicated ones can be effective.

It was with a critical eye that I reviewed this offering, to see if Williamson had fallen into the trap of oversimplification in his effort to clarify. He has not.

It would be hard to select an outstanding portion of this manual. It is all meat and potatoes. There will be some occasion each day in which Williamson can help you.

This may well be one of Saunders' most successful books.

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OLD AGE IN THE MODERN WORLD—Report of the Third Congress of the International Association of Gerontology, London, 1954. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., London, 1955. Distributed in U. S. A. by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1955. 647 pages, \$10.00.

This volume is a carefully edited series of 142 papers presented at the above named Congress. Sixty-five additional papers were listed by title only.

The book presents several interesting aspects: First, it is an unusual admixture of reports on clinical observation, sociological experiments and administrative procedures and

surveys; second, it has a marked international flavor with essayists from seventeen countries—the majority from the United States and the United Kingdom.

The material is organized under seventeen general headings with papers varying from four on endocrinology to seventeen on neuropsychiatry.

This publication is in no sense a textbook on gerontology, but contains a wealth of information on the aging and their economic, social, nutritional, psychological and clinic problems. Although carefully edited, there is a good deal of repetitious statement of general observations on the aging by the multiple essayists.

General practitioners, internists and psychiatrists should find much information of value in this volume. "Old Age in the Modern World" would be a "must" for any physician, medical administrator or sociologist interested in people over fifty years of age and their problems.

The material is well organized, legibly printed and adequately indexed.

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MOTO-KINESTHETIC SPEECH TRAINING—Edna Hill Young and Sara Stinchfield Hawk, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 1955. 176 pages, \$5.00.

This book has many merits. The content is based on great experience and very careful observation. It teaches through text and excellent pictures the moto-kinesthetic method in speech training which uses manual stimulation of speech muscles. This method cannot be said to be new since it has often been applied by medical speech specialists whenever visual or acoustic stimulation was insufficient or could not be applied because of hearing loss or blindness. Mrs. Edna Hill Young describes at length how she learned to overcome her own speech handicap and how she built her "method" on her own experience. It is astonishing how many non-medical speech therapists are former "speech patients," cured mechanically although the psychogenic causative factors yet exist to be overcompensated by a so-called "method" applied in nearly a compulsive manner.

This book e.g. suggests that the mother of a child whose speech does not start "in time" should stimulate speech through manipulation, as if readiness to talk could be pushed! Mispronunciations during speech development are not permitted: As soon as possible corrective measures come to the rescue. The fact that these "wrong" placements can be a source of oral gratification to the child is not acknowledged.

The appendix written by Dr. Sara Stinchfield Hawk is a condensation of her former books. It describes speech disorders, hearing difficulties, aphasia, and developmental speech pathology. Emotional problems are only incidentally mentioned. Mental tests and testing methods for speech are explained. The description of the mentally retarded child's problems may be of value to parents and teachers, but not equally to the medical profession. This volume proves again how necessary it is that the physician's interests should include the important problem of voice and speech pathology. The bibliography is almost devoid of any medical reference.